

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (previously presented). A method of assembly between:

- a blister sheet having two plane main faces and comprising at least one product containment blister projecting on a first of said main faces, and

- a linerboard having two plane main faces and comprising at least one hole for the passage of said blister,

the blister sheet and the linerboard being capable of occupying a defined relative position, in which a first of said main faces of the linerboard is laid against the first main face of the blister sheet, around the blister, and at least one of the first main faces being thermoadhesive or being made thermoadhesive,

said method comprising the succession of steps involving:

- a) placing the blister sheet and the linerboard in said defined relative position,

- b) applying to the blister sheet and to the linerboard, which occupy said defined relative position, a pressure for the mutual clamping of their first main faces and a treatment capable of making adhesive said first main face which is thermoadhesive or is made thermoadhesive, for the time necessary for bringing about a mutual thermoadhesion of said first main faces,

c) causing the application of said pressure and said treatment to cease,

wherein steps b and c are carried out by causing a succession of individualized blister sheets and of linerboards, placed in said defined relative position during step a, to travel jointly and continuously, said step a itself being carried out continuously, in a way known in principle.

2 (previously presented). Method as claimed in claim 1, the linerboard comprising a flap having a first main face initially placed in the extension of the first main face of the linerboard and, in said defined relative position, occupying a turned-down position in which its said first main face is laid against the second of said main faces of the blister sheet, and at least the first main face of the flap or the second main face of the blister sheet being thermoadhesive or being made thermoadhesive,

wherein the flap is placed in said turned-down position, during step a, after the first main faces of the linerboard and of the blister sheet have been laid against one another, and in that step b is carried out when the flap occupies said turned-down position, in such a way that said mutual clamping pressure likewise forms a pressure for the mutual clamping of the first main face of the flap and of the second main face of the blister sheet, and in such a way that said treatment likewise makes adhesive said main face of these main faces which is thermoadhesive or is made thermoadhesive, said time being selected in such a way that it is

sufficient likewise in order to bring about a mutual thermoadhesion of the first main face of the flap and of the second main face of the blister sheet.

3 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the blister sheets and the linerboards are caused to travel along a curved path during step b.

4 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step b is carried out by a means selected from the group comprising induction and thermal conduction.

5 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein a plurality of electrodes and a plurality of counterelectrodes are circulated continuously in a respective closed circuit, said closed circuits comprising a common limited portion, along which the electrodes and counterelectrodes follow a common path, at the same time being matched in a defined relative position in which they offer a respective plane face toward one another, between an entrance, at which the electrodes and counterelectrodes approach one another, at the same time circulating along said respective closed circuit, and an exit, at which the electrodes and counterelectrodes move apart from one another, at the same time circulating along said respective closed circuit, and in that step b is carried out by introducing a blister sheet and a linerboard, placed in their said defined relative position during step a, between a mutually corresponding electrode and counterelectrode at the entrance of said common path, and by

causing the blister sheet and the linerboard, placed in their said defined relative position, to execute said common path between said mutually corresponding electrode and counterelectrode, as far as the exit, at which the mutual spacing apart of said mutually corresponding electrode and counterelectrode carries out step c.

6 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein one of said plane faces has at least one cell for receiving a blister, and in that step b is carried out so as to engage the blister in said cell.

7 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the counterelectrodes are caused to execute, upstream of said common path, an upstream path along which their said face faces upward, and in that they are used, along this upstream path, as vehicles for a respective blister sheet and respective linerboard during the carrying out of step a.

8 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the counterelectrodes are produced or selected in such a way that they have respectively said cell, and in that step a is carried out by successively depositing, flat,

- the linerboard with the second of its said main faces on said face of a counterelectrode, said hole being placed in register with said cell, and

- the blister sheet with its first main face on the first main face of the linerboard, said blister being engaged in said hole and, through the latter, in said cell,

then, if appropriate, with the contingent flap of the linerboard being folded in order to bring it from its initial position into its turned-down position.

9 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the counterelectrodes are caused to execute, downstream of said common path, a downstream path along which their said face faces upward, and in that they are used, along this downstream path, as vehicles for a respective mutually assembled blister sheet and a respective linerboard.

10 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the closed circuit of the electrodes is circular, and in that the closed circuit of the counterelectrodes is in the form of an arc of a circle coaxial to the closed circuit of the electrodes along said common path.

11 (withdrawn). A machine for assembly between:

- a blister sheet having two plane main faces and comprising at least one product containment blister projecting on a first of said main faces, and

- a linerboard having two plane main faces and comprising at least one hole for the passage of said blister,

the blister sheet and the linerboard being capable of occupying a defined relative position in which a first of said main faces of the linerboard is laid against the first main face of the blister sheet, around the blister, and at least one of the first main faces being thermoadhesive or being made thermoadhesive,

said machine comprising means for placing the blister sheet and the linerboard in said defined relative position,

means for applying to the blister sheet and to the linerboard, which occupy said defined relative position, a pressure for the mutual clamping of their first main faces and a treatment capable of making adhesive said first main face which is thermoadhesive or is made thermoadhesive, for the time necessary for bringing about a mutual thermoadhesion of said first main faces, and

means for causing the application of said pressure and said treatment to cease,

wherein the means for means for applying and the means for causing the application of said pressure and said treatment to cease comprise means for causing a succession of individualized blister sheets and of linerboards, placed in said defined relative position, to travel jointly and continuously.

12 (withdrawn). The machine as claimed in claim 11, the linerboard comprising a flap having a first main face initially placed in the extension of the first main face of the linerboard and, in said defined relative position, occupying a turned-down position, in which its said first main face is laid against the second of said main faces of the blister sheet, and at least the first main face of the flap or the second main face of the blister sheet being thermoadhesive or being made thermoadhesive,

wherein said machine comprises means for placing the flap in said turned-down position after the first main faces of the

linerboard and of the blister sheet have been laid against one another.

13 (withdrawn). The machine as claimed in claim 11, wherein the means for causing the blister sheets and the linerboards to travel jointly cause them to follow a curved path.

14 (withdrawn). The machine as claimed in claim 11, wherein the means for applying comprise thermoadhesion means selected from a group comprising the means of thermoadhesion by induction and the means of thermoadhesion by thermal conduction.

15 (withdrawn). The machine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the thermoadhesion means comprise means for continuously circulating a plurality of electrodes and a plurality of counterelectrodes in a respective closed circuit, said closed circuits comprising a common limited portion along which the electrodes and counterelectrodes follow a common path, being matched in a defined relative position in which they offer a respective plane face toward one another, between an entrance, at which the electrodes and counterelectrodes approach one another, circulating along said respective closed circuit, and an exit, at which the electrodes and counterelectrodes move apart from one another, circulating along said respective closed circuit, and in that the machine comprises means for introducing a blister sheet and a linerboard, which are placed in their said defined relative position, between a mutually corresponding electrode and counterelectrode at the entrance of said common path, and means for

releasing the mutually assembled blister sheet and linerboard from between said electrode and said counterelectrode at the exit of said common path.

16 (withdrawn). The machine as claimed in claim 15, wherein one of said plane faces has at least one cell for receiving a blister, and in that the means for introducing a blister sheet and a linerboard, which are placed in their said defined relative position, between a mutually corresponding electrode and counterelectrode at the entrance of said common path are capable of engaging the blister in said cell.

17 (withdrawn). The machine as claimed in claim 16, wherein the circuit of the counterelectrodes comprises, upstream of said common path, an upstream portion along which said face of the counterelectrodes faces upward and along which they form vehicles for a respective blister sheet and linerboard.

18 (withdrawn). The machine as claimed in claim 17, wherein the counterelectrodes have respectively said cell, and in that the means for placing the blister sheet and the linerboard in said defined relative position comprise means for successively depositing, flat:

- the linerboard with the second of its said main faces on said face of a counterelectrode, said hole being placed in register with said cell, and



- the blister sheet with its first main face on the first main face of the linerboard, said blister being engaged in said hole and, through the latter, in said cell,

and, means for subsequently folding the contingent flap of the linerboard in order to bring it from its initial position into its turned-down position.

19 (withdrawn). The machine as claimed in claim 15, wherein the circuit of the counter-electrodes comprises, downstream of said common path, a downstream portion along which said face of the counterelectrodes faces upward and along which they form vehicles for a respective blister sheet and linerboard which are mutually assembled.

20 (withdrawn). The machine as claimed in claim 19, wherein each electrode has at least one respective ejection pusher retractable elastically from a defined position in which it projects on said face of the respective electrode.

21 (withdrawn). The machine as claimed in claim 15, wherein the closed circuit of the electrodes is circular, and in that the closed circuit of the counterelectrodes is in the form of an arc of a circle coaxial to the closed circuit of the electrodes along said common path.

22 (withdrawn). The machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein the means for circulating the electrodes in a closed circuit comprise a wheel mounted rotatably about a defined axis and carrying the electrodes, by means allowing a centripetal elastic

retraction of the latter, independently of one another, in an orientation in which said face of each faces in the centrifugal direction, and a motor for driving the wheel in a defined direction such that said common path is covered from the entrance toward the exit, and in that the means for circulating the counterelectrodes in a closed circuit comprise an endless conveyor guided in an arc of a circle coaxial to said wheel about the latter and carrying the counterelectrodes in an orientation such that said face of each faces toward said face of a respective electrode along said arc of a circle, and means for intermeshing between said wheel and said endless conveyor, in such a way that the motor for driving the wheel likewise drives the endless conveyor by means of the wheel and in synchronism with the latter.

23 (withdrawn). The machine as claimed in claim 22, further comprising means for bringing about a coercive centripetal retraction of the electrodes in the event of a stoppage of the drive motor.